

Meeting Record

MPO Technical Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2002
City/County Building, Room 113
Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

K. Sellman, R. Hoskins (representing A. Abbott), R. Figard, M. Wullschleger, D. Turek (representing E. Poppe), R. Ruby, S. McBeth, V. Singh, L. Worth, J. Large (representing J. Wood)

OTHERS:

Kent Morgan, Mike Brienzo, Ducan Ross (Planning), Brian Praeuner (StarTran), and Karen Sieckmeyer (Public Works/Utilities)

STATED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

Technical Committee Meeting

Kathleen Sellman called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1 - Review and action on the draft minutes of the February 22, 2002 Technical Committee Meeting

Roger Figard moved to approve the February 22, 2002 minutes, seconded by Wullschleger. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 2 - Review and action on the recommended changes to the February 6, 2002 draft City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan proposed by the City of Lincoln Public Works and Utilities Department.

Roger Figard went over the requested map corrections and one change to the proposed future street system. The memo, addressing these changes from Allan Abbott to Kent Morgan, was included in your packet.

Roger stated that Public Works/Utilities is asking the Technical Committee to recommend the appropriate changes be made to the Comprehensive Plan Committee's Map as part of the Technical Committee recommendations that will be made on March 27, 2002, to the Planning Commission Members. A motion was made by Virendra Singh to accept the six items presented, seconded by Larry Worth. Motion carried unanimously.

The Transportation System Management Program and proposed replacement language for Pages F-118 through F-121. Roger Figard and Kent Morgan explained the proposed replacement language that was listed in the memo from Allan Abbott to Kent Morgan.

There being no questions or comments, a motion was made by Roger Figard to accept the proposed language changes for pages F118 through F-121, seconded by Singh. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 - Review and action as needed on Federal Transit Administration - Region VII comments of the draft City of Lincoln Lancaster County Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mike Brienzo handed out a letter dated March 13, 2002 to Kathleen Sellman from FTA Regional Administrator Mokhtee Ahmad (see attached). Larry Worth noted that he had discussed the letter with FTA staffperson Mark Bechtel, who indicated that the letter was to acknowledge FTA review of the transit component of the draft 2025 LRTP and technical report, and to provide recommendations in that regard. The recommendations were to identify opportunities to improve the transit component, strengthen transit-related strategies, reflect FTA emphasis areas, and acknowledge the documentation changes resultant from the upcoming designation of the City of Lincoln as a TMA. Mr. Bechtel agreed that some recommendations will be unable to be implemented at this time, but acknowledged that efforts would be made to do so in subsequent plan updates and reviews. Larry Worth made a motion that a subgroup consisting of Kent Morgan, Mike Brienzo, Brian Praeuner, and Larry Worth prepare a response to the subject letter, for submission to FTA by Kathleen Sellman, seconded by Figard. Motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 4 - Review and action as needed on Planning Commission requests for information resulting from the March 13th public hearing of the draft City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

Kent wanted to bring forward, based on the public hearing, functional classes. After looking at what the existing classifications meant, what they came up with recognized the difference between the old and new areas of Lincoln. In the older areas, because they have a finer grain network, they need to recognize the difference and show fewer principle arterial streets in the interior than currently exist. Basically they would be putting a corral around the older area and retain as principle arterial streets 9th and 10th Streets on the west; 84th Street on the east; Highway 2 on the south; and Cornhusker on the north; and then it would be penetrated by "O" Street in the center. The streets converted for principal to minor arterial within this area include 27th Street, the corridor which includes 56th Street and then jogs over to 48th Street and also a portion of Capital Pkwy and Normal Blvd.

Roger added that a lot of time had been spent thinking about this concept. His suggestion to this committee is that we recommend a proposal from a definition standpoint of functional class not changing how things operate. Taking 27th Street, 48th Street to 56th Street and Capital Pkwy/Normal Blvd. off would not in any way change how the traffic signal system would be operated or how we intend to strip and mark the streets.

Steve McBeth asked if that meant it would be less likely to widen some of those streets that are no longer going to be principle arterial? Roger didn't think so, that still has to be a community decision. Mike Brienzo pointed out this is proposal isn't shown on the Federal Classification maps. What we will need to upon adoption of the Long Range Transportation Plan is submit a change to the State for review and updating. Roger said that it is his understanding that the recommended functional mileage for the percentage of principle arterials still fit within the federal guidelines.

Roger Figard made a motion to endorse and support the proposed existing and future functional streets and road classifications, seconded by Wullschleger. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 - Report on Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staffing move from Planning Department to Public Works Department.

Kent Morgan stated that as they have been going through the comprehensive plan and they have been looking at the functions of the different departments. In looking at how the Public Work's Department has been functioning with the addition of the Traffic Engineer, they thought it would be timely to make some changes in the departments in relationship to the MPO. What was proposed was to move the MPO/staff functions to Public Works which means that Mike Brienzo will be moved to Public Works/Utilities as part of their staff. This means that the MPO function, transportation planning, long range and short range planning will be in one department. We feel this is definitely best for the City of Lincoln and the County as a whole.

There being no other comments the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.